

(PICA), developed by Bruce Porch, PhD, overcomes these weaknesses. This test has been standardized and validated, and its reliability has been established. Administration of the test yields results which can be used as a guide for therapy, to measure progress from month to month and to graphically show when maximum potential has been reached and stabilized. Approximately forty hours of training are necessary to administer the test.

The limitations of the PICA are that it cannot be used with children nor with high level aphasics. A corresponding vehicle for children is now being developed.

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## Low Back Pain

SINCE MIXTER AND BARR postulated that lumbar disc herniation is the predominant cause of low back pain with and without radiation to the leg, other causes have been neglected or minimized. Recently there has been renewed interest and research emphasizing the importance of the poste-

rior facets as the site of back pain with radiation to the leg.

The innervation of the posterior facets has not been confirmed to verify that each facet has a double nerve supply. The nerves to the facets are the articular branches of the posterior primary division of the segmental root of the ipsilateral side.

It has been reported that rhizotomy of these nerves relieves pain. Recent improvement in facet arthrography has made it possible to make sure the injection is made into the joint. Injecting irritative substances into these joints has reproduced lumbar pain and caused referred pain into the buttocks and posterior back. Relief of pain has been afforded by instilling steroid or an analgesic into the facet. A new era of understanding of new mechanisms of lumbar radicular disabling pain appears to be imminent.

RENÉ CAILLIET, MD

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